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# Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



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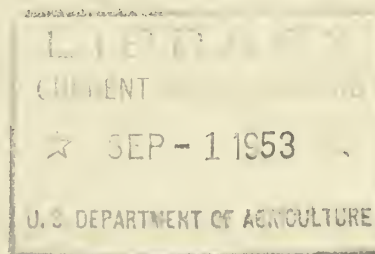
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FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

AUGUST 24, 1953



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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## L A T E N E W S

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Canada's grain carry-over stocks in all positions on July 31, 1953, the end of the crop year, were the largest of recent years according to a recent estimate of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Wheat stocks were placed at 362.7 million bushels, 60 percent above the corresponding figure for 1952. Oats stocks were 136.5 million bushels, compared with 105.0 million a year earlier. Stocks of barley were 106.4 million bushels compared with 76.9 million in 1952. Rye stocks, at 10.4 million bushels, were more than double those of a year ago. (A more detailed statement regarding Canada's carry-over grain stocks will be published in Foreign Crops and Markets of August 31)

### FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free to persons in the U.S. needing the information it contains in farming, business and professional operations.

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## GRAIN TRADE NOTES

Chile Negotiating for Argentine Wheat: According to the Chilean press, a representative of the National Economic Institute (INACO) has been in Buenos Aires arranging for the purchase of 200,000 metric tons of Argentine wheat with a value of about 100 million pesos. It was expected that the first shipment of 25,000 tons would arrive during the first half of August.

Syria's Wheat Export Surplus: Estimates of the probable quantity of wheat available for export from Syria's 1953 crop range from 150,000 to 300,000 metric tons, according to a recent report from Damascus. Of that quantity, Lebanon is expected to take about 80,000 tons of which 10,000 to 15,000 tons are likely to be in flour.

Iraq Has Substantial Barley Export Surplus: The 1953 barley crop in Iraq is reported as large enough to allow a considerable supply for export over and above domestic requirements of 450,000 metric tons. Estimates of the crop vary greatly some of them indicating a harvest 50 percent higher than the 1952 crop of 650,000 tons.

Netherlands-Yugoslav Trade Agreement: In an agreement signed on July 10, 1953 Yugoslavia undertakes to export 20,000 metric tons of corn to the Netherlands during 1953-54 (July-June). In the corresponding agreement for 1952-53, Yugoslavia committed itself to sending the Netherlands 20,000 tons of corn. However, because of the drought, actual shipments were limited to 9,630 tons.

Turkish Grain Exports: Exports of grain from Turkey during 1952-53 (July-June) are reported at 357,800 metric tons of hard wheat; 235,200 tons of soft wheat; 181,000 tons of barley; 116,600 tons of rye; and 21,800 tons of corn. The wheat was sent mainly to Italy, Yugoslavia, Pakistan, Greece, Israel and Germany. Most of the barley and rye went to Germany and most of the corn to Italy, the Netherlands and Belgium.

Guatemala Authorizes Corn Exports: An export quota of 200,000 quintals (101.43 pounds) of corn and cornmeal to El Salvador and Mexico was authorized on August 1, 1953. This is an exception to the general prohibition of corn exports effective June 9, 1953. Each country is to receive 100,000 quintals. Persons interested in exporting corn to the indicated countries must obtain an export license from the Guatemalan Ministry of Economy and Labor.

Argentine Grain Exports During 1952-53: Argentine grain exports during the twelve months ended June 30, 1953 compared with those for the corresponding period of 1951-52 shown in parenthesis were as follows: wheat, 784,300 (803,100) long tons; rye, 31,500 (130,500) tons; corn, 625,700 (601,600) tons; oats, 64,500 (108,400) tons; and barley, 203,900 (241,600) tons.

## PHILIPPINE COPRA EXPORTS HIGH FOR YEAR

Philippine copra exports during July totaled 55,489 long tons, the largest monthly shipment so far this year. Exports were 40 percent above the previous month and 30 percent greater than shipments during July 1952. Total shipments during January-July 1953 amounted to only 281,299 tons against 341,379 tons in the comparable period of 1952.

The breakdown of the July 1953 copra exports by country of destination is as follows: United States--24,429 tons (Pacific-18,385, Atlantic-2,497, Gulf-3,547); Canada--1,500; Venezuela--3,058; Colombia--1,015; Italy--2,000; Germany--5,307; the Netherlands--7,066; Norway--4,127; Denmark--2,800; Spain--676; Belgium--2,511; and Europe unspecified--1,000 tons.

July exports of coconut oil totaled 4,931 tons, approximately the same as the June shipments but a decrease of about 40 percent from July 1952. January-July exports amounted to 26,170 tons against corresponding shipments of 48,136 tons in 1952. The entire July shipments of oil came to the United States (Atlantic).

The copra export price in mid-August was \$180 per short ton, c.i.f. Pacific. Local buying prices in Manila were quoted at 28 to 32 pesos per 100 kilograms (\$142.25 to \$162.57 per long ton).

## U.S. SOYBEAN EXPORTS UP SHARPLY; SOYBEAN OIL EXPORTS DOWN

United States exports of soybeans during the first 8 months of the current crop year (October-May) amounted to 25,540,000 bushels or almost double the volume exported in the comparable period of 1951-52. Soybean oil exports amounted to 68,653,000 pounds or less than one-third last year's. On a combined soybean basis, total exports of beans and oil were down 9 percent from 1951-52.

Japan was the major market for soybeans, taking almost one-half the total exports and over 4 times the volume taken in the first 8 months of 1951-52. Exports to Canada declined slightly while those to Europe increased 25 percent.

Europe continued to be the major market for soybean oil with France the principal buyer. That country took 26.5 million pounds in contrast to only 76,000 in the same months of the previous year. The Netherlands purchased the second largest volume this year but took only 13 million pounds in contrast to about 75 million last year. Sharp declines also occurred in shipments to most other European countries, including Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Oil exports to Latin America likewise declined significantly. Chile, for example, which purchased 21 million pounds in the first 8 months of 1951-52, has not been a market for oil to date this crop year.

UNITED STATES: Exports of soybeans and soybean oil, October-May  
1951-1952 and 1952-53

| Country of destination      | 1951-1952 <sup>1/</sup> |                              |                                | 1952-1953 <sup>1/</sup> |                              |                                |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                             | Soybeans                | Soybean<br>Oil <sup>2/</sup> | Total<br>soybean<br>equivalent | Soybeans                | Soybean<br>Oil <sup>2/</sup> | Total<br>soybean<br>equivalent |
|                             | 1,000<br>bushels        | 1,000<br>pounds              | 1,000<br>bushels               | 1,000<br>bushels        | 1,000<br>pounds              | 1,000<br>bushels               |
| Canada.....                 | 3,198                   | 8,861                        | 4,104                          | 3,078                   | 10,731                       | 4,149                          |
| Cuba.....                   | 1                       | 4,583                        | 470                            | 3/                      | 2,731                        | 273                            |
| Haiti.....                  | -                       | 728                          | 74                             | -                       | 402                          | 40                             |
| Mexico.....                 | 1                       | 2,211                        | 228                            | 3/                      | 18                           | 2                              |
| Netherlands Antilles.....   | -                       | 704                          | 72                             | -                       | 99                           | 10                             |
| Panama, Republic of.....    | 3/                      | 329                          | 34                             | -                       | 140                          | 14                             |
| Chile.....                  | -                       | 21,332                       | 2,181                          | -                       | -                            | -                              |
| Peru.....                   | -                       | 1,953                        | 200                            | -                       | -                            | -                              |
| Austria.....                | -                       | 1,175                        | 120                            | -                       | 1,467                        | 146                            |
| Belgium-Luxembourg.....     | 1,502                   | 13,041                       | 2,335                          | 732                     | 856                          | 818                            |
| Denmark.....                | 258                     | -                            | 258                            | 1,265                   | -                            | 1,265                          |
| France.....                 | 1,418                   | 76                           | 1,426                          | 3/                      | 26,515                       | 2,646                          |
| Germany, Western.....       | 2                       | 9,518                        | 975                            | 1,229                   | 559                          | 1,285                          |
| Iceland.....                | -                       | 493                          | 50                             | -                       | 260                          | 26                             |
| Italy.....                  | 1                       | 18,334                       | 1,877                          | -                       | 2,249                        | 224                            |
| Netherlands.....            | 1,476                   | 74,644                       | 9,108                          | 2,678                   | 13,393                       | 4,015                          |
| Norway.....                 | -                       | -                            | -                              | 557                     | -                            | 557                            |
| Spain.....                  | 540                     | 5,090                        | 1,061                          | -                       | -                            | -                              |
| Sweden.....                 | -                       | 2,259                        | 231                            | -                       | -                            | -                              |
| Switzerland.....            | 74                      | 16,329                       | 1,743                          | -                       | 919                          | 92                             |
| Free Territory of Trieste.. | -                       | 233                          | 24                             | -                       | -                            | -                              |
| United Kingdom.....         | -                       | 25,913                       | 2,650                          | 37                      | 1,631                        | 200                            |
| Yugoslavia.....             | -                       | -                            | -                              | 184                     | -                            | 184                            |
| Hong Kong.....              | -                       | -                            | -                              | -                       | 6                            | 1                              |
| Israel and Palestine.....   | 439                     | 3,750                        | 873                            | 562                     | 2,720                        | 833                            |
| Japan.....                  | 2,779                   | -                            | 2,779                          | 11,994                  | -                            | 11,994                         |
| Philippines.....            | 83                      | 106                          | 99                             | 120                     | -                            | 120                            |
| Taiwan (Formosa).....       | 1,819                   | 427                          | 1,863                          | 2,766                   | 2,400                        | 3,005                          |
| Tangier.....                | -                       | 22                           | 2                              | -                       | -                            | -                              |
| Other countries.....        | 3/                      | 1,083                        | 111                            | 338                     | 1,557                        | 493                            |
| Total.....                  | 13,646                  | 213,227                      | 35,448                         | 25,540                  | 68,653                       | 32,392                         |

<sup>1/</sup> Preliminary. <sup>2/</sup> Crude and refined oil in terms of crude oil. <sup>3/</sup> Less than 500 bushels.

Compiled from official sources.

## CANADIAN EGG AND POULTRY OUTPUT STABLE WITH DEMAND STRONG

The Canadian chick hatch during the first half of 1953 was surprisingly light in view of a buoyant domestic market for eggs and poultry meat and depletion of stocks, according to W. L. Rodman, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Ottawa. Total egg production is currently paralleling the 1952 level. Prices for both eggs and poultry meat, however, have continued to soar since January and are expected to remain profitable to producers throughout this fall. Large imports of dressed poultry were required during the past 6 months to help fill domestic needs and further such imports are expected.

The hatch for laying flock replacement, which is virtually completed each year by May 31st, was 3.2 percent less this season than last, with hatches during January through March down 9.2 percent. This decline in early hatches will be reflected by a corresponding decrease in egg production this fall. The total approved Canadian chick hatch for the first half of this year was 1.4 percent greater than for the corresponding period of 1952.

Although poultrymen have received thus far in 1953 higher prices for their products and have paid less for feed than in 1952, their response in terms of replacement hatch was surprisingly light. Laying flocks were reduced in 1952 as a result of an unfavorable price relationship, and producers now appear reluctant to hire the high-priced labor necessary to expand their operations. The fact that over-all chick production this past January through June showed a slight gain over 1952 was due primarily to the June hatch for broilers, which jumped nearly 94 percent above last year.

An apparent sharp decrease in turkey production statistics this year may be somewhat misleading in that the poult mortality during 1952 was greater than reported. For example, turkey marketing to date exceeds the 1952 amount. Nevertheless, there was an 18.6 percent drop from 1952 in the total approved poult hatch for the January-June period. As the balance of prices paid compared with prices received is favorable to producers, the total 1953 poult hatch may not be greatly below the actual 1952 level.

The preliminary official estimate of net Canadian egg production during January-June 1953 is 188,267,000 dozen, compared to 187,235,000 dozen produced last year in the comparable season. Egg prices profitable to producers have resulted in better flock management and a retention of a greater than usual number of fowl on farms.

A significant drop below 1952 levels in stocks of eggs at July 1 this year is indicative of the buoyant domestic market which exists despite prevailing high retail prices. The weighted egg price to producers this year to July 4, for all eggs delivered to registered egg grading stations, was 41.0 cents per dozen, nearly 10 cents per dozen higher than last year but not up to the 1951 level of 45.4 cents per dozen.

According to the Dominion Department of Agriculture, egg exports from January 1 to July 4, this year totalled less than 74,000 cases as compared to 139,000 cases in the similar season last year. As Canadian egg prices are not expected to drop substantially in the near future, further shipments this year will be small.

The small supply of poultry meat since January has necessitated heavy withdrawals from stocks and boosted prices nearly 25 percent higher than in 1952. Total poultry meat stocks on July 1, 1953 were lower than in 1952 by about 9,800,000 pounds and are expected to remain small throughout the remainder of the year.

Agricultural officials expect that total 1953 poultry marketings will be above the 1952 amount but insufficient to fill domestic needs. Attracted by the rise in prices, imports of dressed poultry from January 1 to July 18 have totalled nearly 2,000,000 pounds as compared with less than 350,000 pounds last year. Further imports are expected.

#### UNITED KINGDOM AND NEW ZEALAND AGREEMENT ON MEAT PRICES

The United Kingdom Ministry of Food has reached an agreement with the New Zealand Meat Producers Board on the prices to be paid for pigmeat imported from New Zealand in the 12 months beginning October 1, 1953. In general, there will be no change from the prices paid during 1952-53. However, to encourage the production of the most desirable type of porker pigs, the prices previously paid for porkers weighing from 60 to 80 pounds will be paid for those weighing from 60 to 90 pounds. Also in order to discourage shipments of heavy weight and over-fat baconers there will be a reduction in the price of carcasses weighing from 181 to 200 pounds.

There are 3 weight grades for porkers. The present weights are 60/80, 81/100 and 101/120 pounds. In future the weights will be 60/90, 91/100 and 101/120 pounds. The price of light weight porkers of first quality with the head on remains at 27.4 cents per pound. The price of porkers in the middle weight grade is 24.7 cents per pound. Porkers that weight 81/90 pounds will receive the light weigh price which is equivalent to an increase of about 10½ percent.

There are also 3 weight grades of baconers, 121/160, 161/180 and 181/200 pounds. Baconers weighing 181/200 pounds and Wiltshire sides from carcasses of the same weight have received prices ranging from 13.4 to 18.3 cents per pound. In future, they will receive the price for choppers of 13.1 cents per pound. This represents an average reduction of about 25 percent in the price. These heavy-weight baconers cannot be used for bacon production in the United Kingdom and are sold at the manufacturing price which involves a loss for the Ministry.

New Zealand sends about 17.9 million pounds of pigmeat a year to the United Kingdom, about two thirds of which is normally in the form of baconers. Last year the United Kingdom Ministry of Food gave an increase of 15 percent in the price of porker pigs with no increase for baconers to encourage shipment of porkers. It is hoped that the present price settlement will stimulate this tendency and also the shipment of better quality light weight porkers.

#### CANADA FORECASTS LARGE GRAIN PRODUCTION

Canadian growers may harvest the second largest grain crop of record in 1953, on the basis of yields indicated August 1, according to the first official forecast of production by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Indicated yields are well above long-time averages but are generally below the record yields of last year. It is emphasized, however, that realization of the 1953 yield and production is dependent even more than usual on favorable weather conditions being maintained until harvesting is completed.

With the exception of fall-sown crops, very little grain harvesting had been started by August 1, and current production forecasts may, therefore, be subject to significant revisions in the light of actual harvesting results. Seeding was delayed by wet weather over large areas of the Prairie Provinces this spring, and was continued until mid-June or later in the most seriously affected areas. Although generally favorable growing conditions throughout June and July did much to overcome the late start of spring-sown grains, there is still considerable danger of damage from frost before the grain reaches maturity, especially in Alberta and parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan where seeding was abnormally late.

Some losses from hail and rust have already been reported. Hail losses have been especially severe in Alberta, though some losses have been suffered also in the other two Prairie Provinces. Rust has reduced yields of durum and late-seeded crops in some southern sections of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Present forecasts reflect losses in yields from these causes up to August 1 but any subsequent losses will show up in the second estimate of production scheduled for release September 15. The report emphasizes that an extended period of warm dry weather will be required to fulfill current prospects.

The current forecast of 603.8 million bushels of wheat will, if realized, be second only to the record of 687.9 million last year and is about 43 percent above the average of the past 10 years. The indicated outturn would be not only the second successive crop in excess of 600 million bushels, it would be the third successive harvest exceeding the half-billion bushel level. Wheat crops exceeding that figure had been harvested in Canada only 4 times prior to 1951. Lower yields of spring wheat account for the bulk of the reduction from last year's record harvest. Present forecasts place the average yield 3 bushels per acre below the record yields for 1952. Winter wheat production is forecast at 26 million bushels. This is somewhat larger than the 1952 crop, with both acreage and average yields larger than in 1952.

CANADA: Grain acreage, yield per acre, and production,  
1953 with comparisons

| Year                  | Wheat   | Rye     | Oats 1/ | Barley  | Mixed grains |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|
|                       | 1,000   | 1,000   | 1,000   | 1,000   | 1,000        |
|                       | acres   | acres   | acres   | acres   | acres        |
| <u>Acreage</u>        |         |         |         |         |              |
| Average 1935-39.....  | 25,595  | 816     | 13,246  | 4,291   | 1,166        |
| " 1940-44.....        | 22,466  | 912     | 13,614  | 6,461   | 1,437        |
| 1945.....             | 23,414  | 487     | 14,393  | 7,350   | 1,518        |
| 1946.....             | 24,453  | 715     | 12,075  | 6,253   | 1,453        |
| 1947.....             | 24,260  | 1,156   | 11,048  | 7,465   | 1,318        |
| 1948.....             | 23,881  | 2,103   | 11,200  | 6,495   | 1,150        |
| 1949.....             | 27,575  | 1,182   | 11,389  | 6,017   | 1,542        |
| 1950.....             | 27,021  | 1,168   | 11,575  | 6,625   | 1,679        |
| 1951.....             | 25,254  | 1,127   | 11,897  | 7,840   | 1,524        |
| 1952.....             | 25,995  | 1,257   | 11,062  | 8,477   | 1,570        |
| 1953 2/.....          | 25,513  | 1,463   | 9,830   | 8,911   | 1,445        |
| <u>Yield per acre</u> |         |         |         |         |              |
|                       | Bushels | Bushels | Bushels | Bushels | Bushels      |
| Average 1935-39.....  | 12.2    | 11.3    | 25.5    | 20.7    | 33.0         |
| " 1940-44.....        | 18.8    | 14.5    | 34.1    | 27.4    | 34.1         |
| 1945.....             | 13.6    | 12.1    | 26.5    | 21.5    | 32.3         |
| 1946.....             | 16.9    | 12.3    | 30.7    | 23.8    | 40.2         |
| 1947.....             | 14.1    | 11.4    | 25.2    | 18.9    | 30.4         |
| 1948.....             | 16.2    | 12.0    | 32.0    | 23.9    | 40.2         |
| 1949.....             | 13.5    | 8.5     | 27.9    | 20.0    | 33.2         |
| 1950.....             | 17.1    | 11.4    | 36.3    | 25.9    | 44.2         |
| 1951.....             | 21.9    | 15.7    | 41.0    | 31.3    | 44.9         |
| 1952.....             | 26.5    | 19.5    | 42.2    | 34.4    | 40.3         |
| 1953 2/.....          | 23.7    | 20.3    | 40.9    | 31.8    | 41.3         |
| <u>Production</u>     |         |         |         |         |              |
|                       | 1,000   | 1,000   | 1,000   | 1,000   | 1,000        |
|                       | bushels | bushels | bushels | bushels | bushels      |
| Average 1935-39.....  | 312,399 | 9,191   | 338,071 | 88,882  | 38,507       |
| " 1940-44.....        | 422,559 | 13,222  | 463,944 | 176,850 | 50,700       |
| 1945.....             | 318,512 | 5,888   | 381,596 | 157,757 | 46,927       |
| 1946.....             | 413,725 | 8,811   | 371,069 | 148,887 | 53,031       |
| 1947.....             | 341,758 | 13,217  | 278,670 | 141,372 | 34,929       |
| 1948.....             | 386,345 | 25,340  | 358,807 | 155,013 | 61,947       |
| 1949.....             | 371,406 | 10,011  | 317,916 | 120,408 | 55,928       |
| 1950.....             | 461,664 | 13,333  | 419,930 | 171,393 | 74,190       |
| 1951.....             | 552,657 | 17,647  | 488,191 | 245,218 | 68,509       |
| 1952.....             | 637,922 | 24,557  | 466,805 | 291,379 | 63,205       |
| 1953 2/.....          | 603,793 | 29,660  | 402,282 | 283,207 | 59,741       |

1/ As reported in bushels of 34 pounds. 2/ Preliminary forecast.

From reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Wheat production in the Prairie Provinces is forecast at 574 million bushels, compared with 664 million last year. Most of the decline is in Saskatchewan where the current estimate of 365 million bushels is 70 million bushels less than in 1952. Yields in that Province appear about 15 percent below 1952 yields. Alberta's estimate of 159 million bushels is 13 million bushels less than in 1952, because of a small decline in yields and acreage. Slightly smaller acreage and yields in Manitoba bring prospects there 7 million bushels below the 1952 level.

Production of oats for grain is forecast at 402.3 million bushels, compared with the near-record 466.8 million produced last year. A substantial reduction in acreage, combined with slightly smaller yields, accounts for the reduction. Smaller yields in the Prairie Provinces more than offset higher yields in eastern Provinces.

Barley production, forecast at 283.2 million bushels, would be only slightly below last year's harvest, with increased acreage largely offsetting reduced yields. The increase in barley seedings brought acreage under that grain to a new record of 8.9 million acres. Rye production is forecast at 29.7 million bushels, second only to the record crop of 32.4 million in 1922. The acreage increase was all in fall-sown rye. Better yields of winter rye than last season offset somewhat smaller yields of spring rye. Mixed grains are forecast at 59.7 million bushels compared with 63.2 million last year. Yields are expected to be slightly larger but acreage is smaller.